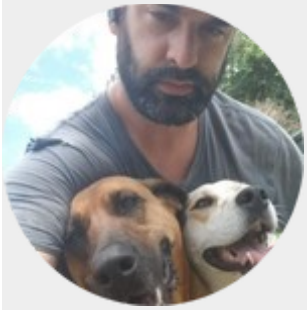
Xbox Ambassadors Celebrate Pride 2024

Community Xbox Ambassadors Team May 31, 2024

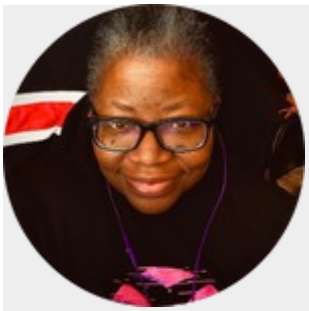
Happy Pride month, Xbox Ambassadors! We're celebrating by spotlighting members of the Xbox Ambassadors community who responded to a recent survey about their experiences as gamers. Read on to hear community members sharing their favorite memories playing video games, recommending games that do a good job representing LGBTQIA+ people and experiences, and offering tips on how to stay safe when gaming online. Plus, don't forget to check out the Quests page for more ways to celebrate Pride with Xbox.

When asked to share aspects of the Xbox community that help them feel valued as players, many survey respondents mentioned an inclusive community, a love of connecting with friends and family through video games, and dedicated channels to find other players with similar interests.



GosiGat

"We are all equal in the Xbox Community. We are all gamers. That's always a great feeling."

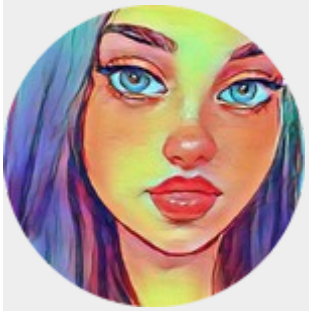


Saffista

“Being able to share messages and screenshots with friends and community members”

BananaBrainsZEF

“The inclusivity and relative lack of toxicity. People for the most part are pretty chill and understanding on Xbox, at least for the games I play.”

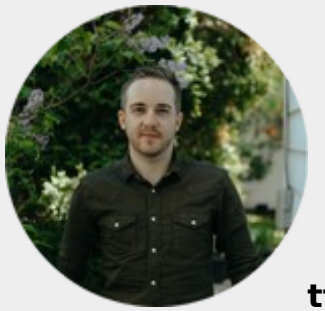


MeltyMira

“The community is extremely kind and welcoming to all new and old players. We have channels specifically just for playing together and achievement hunting as groups and reach out weekly for adding and just general friendship.”

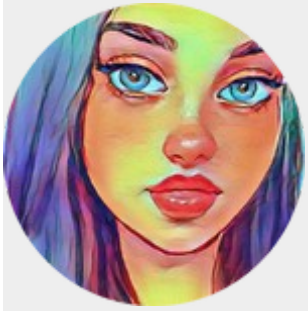
Xbox Ambassadors also shared why gaming is important to them, along with memories that helped them learn to love playing video games. Connecting with other players, having a safe space to be themselves, and experiencing

the full range of emotions that games and their immersive stories can bring out all resonated strongly with this group of Ambassadors.



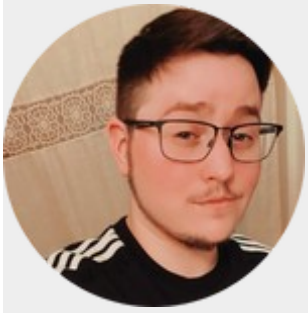
tfreak10108

“Feeling connected to other players. After saving up and buying an Xbox 360 Elite as a young teen, I remember staying up into the early hours of the morning playing custom Halo Forge maps with friends. Those are fond memories for sure.”



MeltyMira

“Connecting with people and going on adventures. My first major game was zelda on the 64 and I remember getting off the bus and just a whole group of friends coming over so we could all crowd around my tiny TV and take turns laughing and playing.”

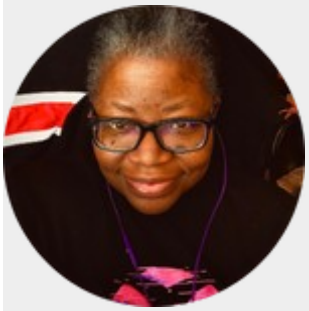


Halian6661

“Gaming provides me with a safe space to be whoever I want to be. When I need an escape from reality, all of my favorite games are waiting to welcome me with open arms. As a child, I was introduced to modern gaming by a

family friend. We played Guitar Hero II right after it released and I loved pretending to be a rockstar giving a concert to adoring fans. It opened up my imagination to a world of possibilities. I went home begging my parents to get me a console and a copy of Guitar Hero for Christmas, and the rest is history."

We also asked Ambassadors to share examples of video games or in-game characters that do a good job of positively representing LGBTQIA+ people and experiences. We received more recommendations than we can share in full, but major trends included positive depictions of LGTBQIA+ romances in-game and featuring LGBTQIA+ characters who are well-crafted and compelling for reasons unrelated to being LGBTQIA+.

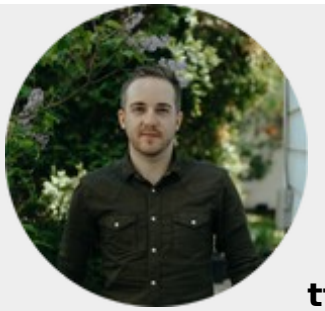


Saffista

"The Border House owners in The Longest Journey. It was the first time I saw a lesbian couple living a loving and perfectly normal life in a video game!"

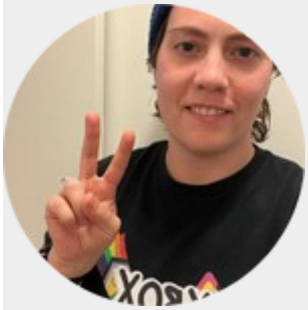
Xbox Ambassador, Level 1

"I feel like Ellie from The Last of Us is a strong and well-developed character who just happens to be lesbian. Her sexuality is not a major plot point, but it is a natural part of who she is making the game feel inclusive to all"



tfreak10108

“Dragon Age: Inquisition did a great job, in my opinion. Multiple LGBT characters, and all were respected within the universe. You as the player also had the option to be who you wanted. There is always room for improvement, and I think we are seeing more of that in games today, both with trans identity as well as pronoun usage in games.”

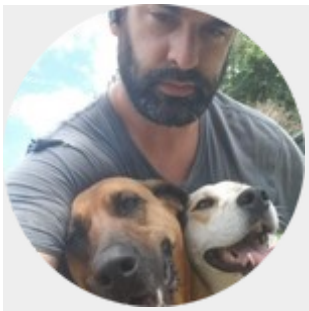


SKY W1TCH

“Dragon Age & Baldur’s Gate 3 are god-tier with LGBTQ romance. That’s one of the most important things – feeling loved as an LGBTQ person.”

We love hearing these success stories and recognize that a lot of time, energy, and care goes into creating them. To dig deeper, we asked Ambassadors how the gaming industry in general can get better at this kind of representation and received plenty of recommendations. Some top trends include:

- Emphasizing that characters are more complex than one aspect of their identity.
- Diversifying development teams to include more LGBTQIA+ people in game creation from start to finish.
- Continuing to include more options for players from the character creation screen to the characters they can romance in-game.



GosiGat

“I think characters need to be more than just one thing. People are complex and complicated, don’t make only one aspect becoming the center of their personality.”

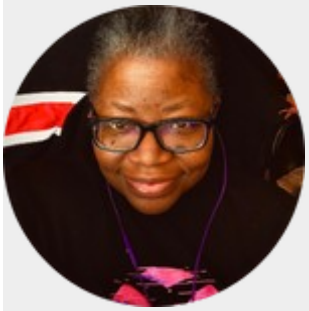
Xbox Ambassador, Level 1

“I feel like diversifying development teams. By having more LGBTQIA+ people involved in game creation, from writing to design, ensures more authentic and nuanced portrayals.”

GremlinLord615

“I think by continuing to have open options in games can create a more inclusive gaming community. Things like getting rid of gender restriction on costumes, open romance options, and even pronouns. I understand that some of these can upset some people in the gaming world, but in reality, we all exist, and having more options helps everyone!”

We also asked Ambassadors if gaming has helped them connect with other members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and if so, how it has helped them. While not everyone had experienced this kind of connection in-game, many shared ways that gaming had led to new and positive connections both directly and indirectly.

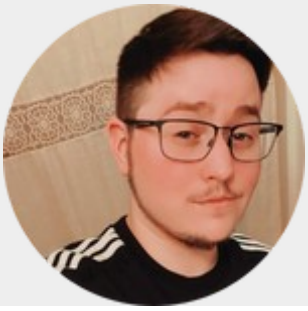


Saffista

“Yes, I have a group of middle aged lesbian gamer friends that I play FPS games with that I met while gaming!”

BananaBrainsZEF

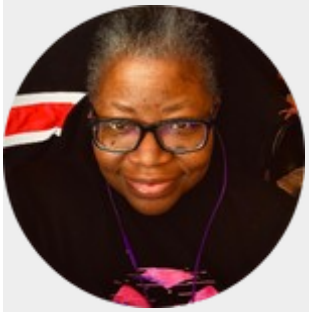
“Not much, personally. Playing games like Tell Me Why have made me more understanding of trans people, but aside from that, I’ve connected with various people online over a shared love of the same characters in various games, such as Ellie from The Last of Us, Veronica and Arcade from Fallout: New Vegas, and so on. These characters tend to attract queer folks to discussions about them, so talking about the stories, writing, and characters allows me to connect with other queer people.”



Halian6661

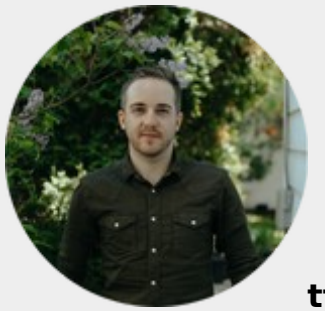
“I have met LGBTQIA+ people through gaming and it’s a unique experience. You get to create a safe space for each other without needing to worry about acceptance. You can be authentic in presenting yourself and let go of any fears of judgment. You share a love of gaming as well as life experiences and that helps create a strong bond. Getting to play with other people like you and who understand you makes any game a fun experience.”

Our last set of quotes feature tips from Xbox Ambassadors on how to stay safe when gaming online. We received a lot of helpful suggestions, including being careful about what information you share with others, proactively checking your privacy and safety settings, and using safety features like blocking and reporting when necessary.



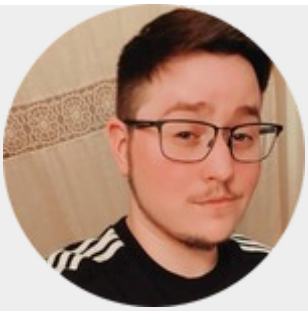
Saffista

“Make friends, but be extremely careful about the information that you share. Also remember, not everyone is who they say they are on the internet.”



tfreak10108

“Know your own strength. Other people may choose to speak to you in unkind ways, but that is only a representation of who they are, not who you are. Remember that no one has control over your emotions, and you have the power to reject anyone else’s negativity. It is not always easy, but try and separate yourself from it. Utilize blocking and reporting features. Doing so doesn’t mean you’re weak, it means you care about yourself and others within the gaming community.”



Halian6661

“Be yourself, but always be mindful that not everyone has good intentions. Never disclose any personal identifying information to anyone you don’t trust.”

That concludes our Xbox Ambassadors blog celebrating Pride 2024, but Xbox and the Xbox Ambassadors Program will continue celebrating for the rest of this month and beyond. Learn more at Xbox Wire and on the Xbox Ambassadors Quests page.